

Saving Lives and Livelihoods

In partnership with the Mastercard Foundation



Newsletter

February 2022



In June 2021, the Mastercard Foundation partnered with the [Africa CDC](#) to launch a \$1.5 billion initiative called [Saving Lives and Livelihoods](#). Together, we are purchasing vaccines for more than 65 million people, deploying vaccines to millions more across the continent, enabling vaccine manufacturing in Africa by developing the workforce, and strengthening the Africa CDC's capacity.



Africa CDC celebrated its fifth anniversary this January. This is a key milestone in a journey marked with important **achievements** and **partnerships**

Africa CDC becomes an autonomous agency of the African Union

At the 35th ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Africa CDC was granted full licence to operate as an autonomous agency of the African Union. This historic approval means that the Africa CDC now has the legal, institutional, and operational autonomy to among other things, directly mobilize financing for building public health capacity and acquiring vital continental assets for disease prevention and control. As a result, the Africa CDC will be better positioned to strengthen national health systems in Africa in line with its mandate.

[Read more](#)

How much do you know about the Africa CDC? Here are 10 quick facts:

1

It is the continent's flagship health body, providing emergency response, surveillance, prevention and control

2

Its continent-wide policies are developed with the support of the African Union as well as key economic and health leaders

3

It has regional centres in Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria and Zambia with 200 staff

4

It is pursuing a New Public Health Order, where Africa manufactures its own vaccines, invests in scientific research and forms new partnerships

5

It supports a network of laboratory systems and deploys hundreds of African Health Volunteer Corps across the continent

6

It helped launch the Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Program, which is developing the continent's next generation of public health experts

7

In April 2021, the Africa CDC launched the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing to develop vaccine manufacturing capacity to ensure 60% of all vaccines used in Africa are produced within the countries by 2040

8

In June 2021, it launched the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation – a \$1.5 billion investment in enabling COVID-19 vaccination, and laying the ground work for broader vaccine manufacturing, in Africa

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By 2040, the Africa CDC hopes to establish five new vaccine manufacturing sites to ensure the continent's self-reliance and health security

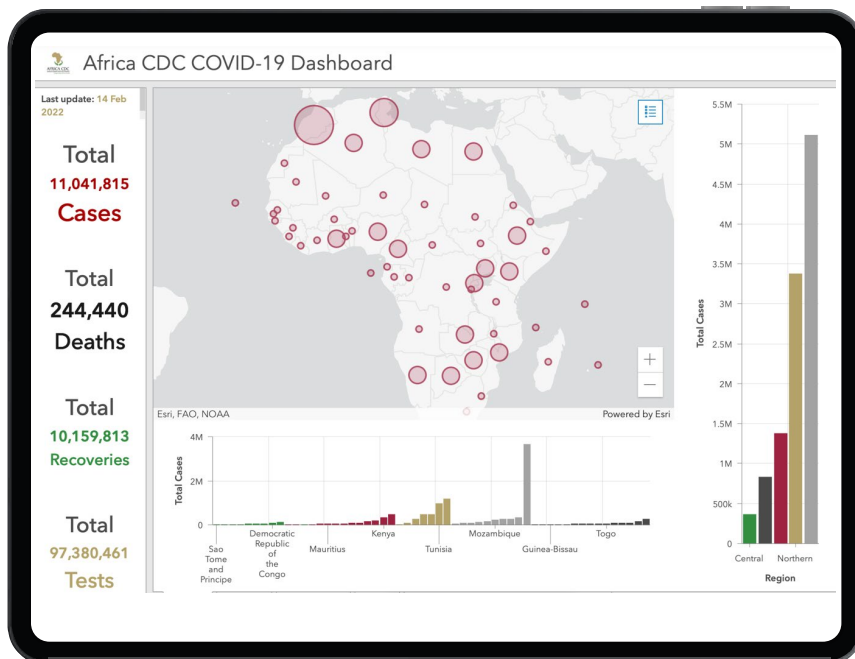
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Africa CDC is demonstrating that it is up to the challenge

Missed the fifth anniversary celebrations? [Watch here](#)

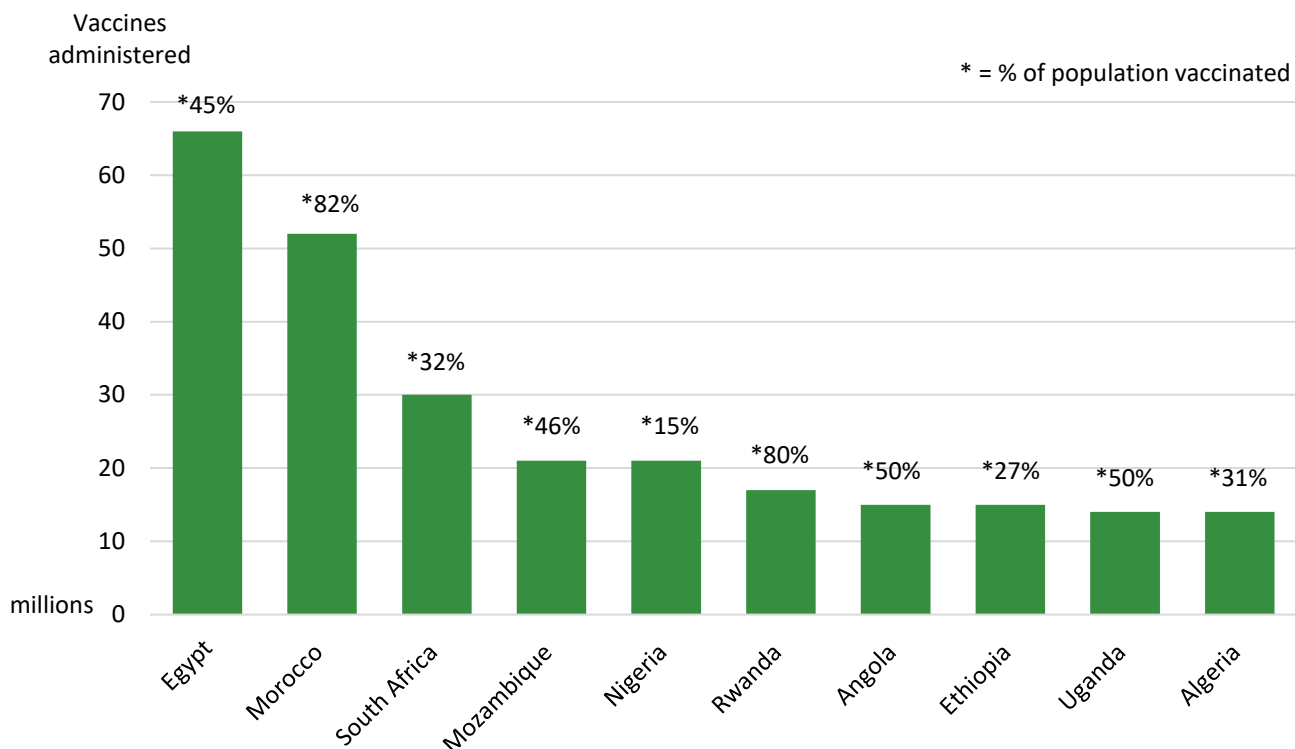
COVID-19 in Africa: Where we are

Africa has registered more than 11 million COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic. South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Ethiopia, and Libya are still among countries with the highest number of cases on the continent. [Read more](#)



Vaccines administered

Latest data from the Africa CDC indicates that the following 10 countries have administered the most vaccines:



According to the WHO Africa, weekly COVID-19 cases in Africa have dropped significantly and death rates dipped for the first time since the peak of the fourth pandemic wave that was propelled by the Omicron variant. Newly reported cases fell by 20% in the week to 16 January, while deaths dropped by 8%. South Africa—where the variant was first sequenced and accounted for the bulk of cases and deaths—has recorded a downward trend over the past four weeks. [Read more](#)

Getting shots in arms: Saving Lives and Livelihoods Update



Over the last couple of months, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative has focused on the following priorities:



Youth engagement: Africa CDC is partnering with the Mastercard Foundation to launch the **African Youth for COVID-19 Vaccination** initiative to mobilize Africa's youth and change their behaviour on vaccination, testing, treatment, and prevention. *Stay tuned!*



Supporting the delivery of vaccinations to millions more across the continent: In the last three months, more than 12 million COVID-19 vaccines have been officially delivered to 20 countries, including Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.



Addressing expiring vaccines: The Africa CDC swiftly deployed teams of rapid responders across the continent to roll out vaccination drives in time to beat expiration dates. Working closely with Ministries of Health, Africa CDC is expanding the number of vaccination centres, training health workers, and promoting vaccinations through outreach by trusted community leaders. At the same time, African leaders are calling on donors to avoid donating vaccines that are close to expiry and to give African countries sufficient lead time when planning donations. [Read more on that here](#)



Keeping fans safe at the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations: Saving Lives and Livelihoods supported the setup of screening and testing sites for fans attending the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations matches to ensure a safe tournament. Volunteers assisted with enhanced surveillance and conducted Rapid Antigen Testing... ahead of games...at various stadiums in Cameroon. [Check out the photos](#)

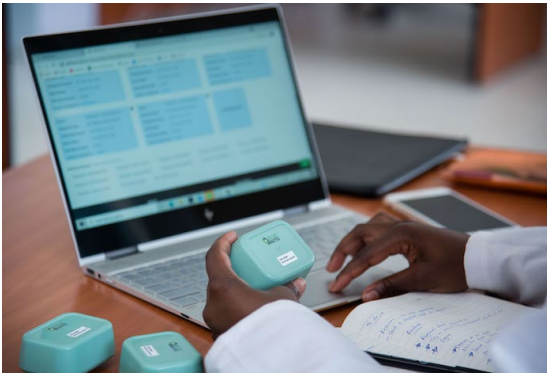


Strengthening the Africa CDC: The Africa CDC launched a massive recruitment effort to fill 106 positions, aimed at expanding its capacity to oversee continental COVID-19 vaccination. As of January 2022, only three positions were yet to be filled. To view the open positions, visit <http://www.afenet.net/index.php/careers>



Kicking off a digital pro-vaccination campaign: The Africa CDC and Mastercard Foundation have kicked off a digital campaign dubbed “#ItsUpToUs” to encourage vaccination, particularly among young people. Given that nearly 60 percent of its population is under the age of 25, vaccinating young people is key to ensuring Africa can reach its target of vaccinating 70% of Africa’s population by the end of 2022. The campaign unveiled Afro Pop star Yemi Alade as its global ambassador, and she [released a song](#) in support of the campaign.

Other important developments



Another win for continental vaccine manufacturing: The World Health Organization on February 18th announced that six African countries will benefit from technology transfer for COVID-19 vaccines. Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia all applied and have been selected as recipients. WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, made the announcement at the European Union - African Union Summit in Brussels. In April 2021 the WHO issued a call for expressions of interest to companies wishing to host an mRNA technology transfer hub. [Read the release](#)



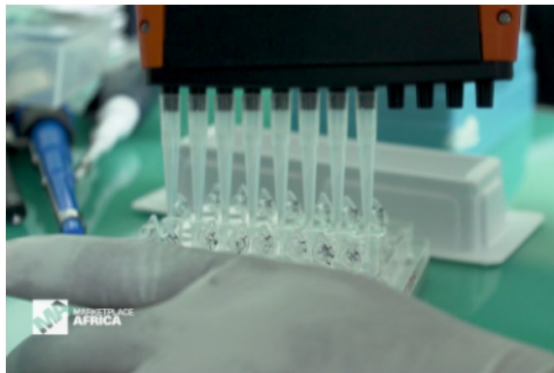
Africa CDC is partnering with Parsyl, a leading provider of smart vaccine monitoring solutions in emerging markets, to avail 10,000 vaccine monitoring devices to African Union Member States in support of COVID-19 vaccine distribution on the continent. The platform includes a suite of monitoring devices, a mobile app, a web platform, and an optional gateway for automatic data offload. [Read more](#)



Africa CDC recently trained emergency health responders in South Sudan, equipping them to detect and report incidents of disease. [Read more](#)



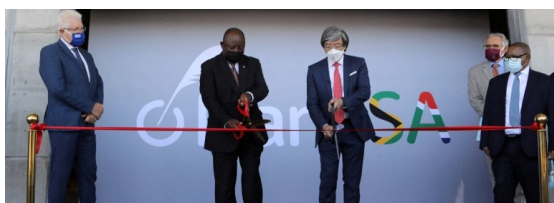
Africa is on course to vaccinate 70% of its population against COVID-19 by the end of 2022 according to the Africa CDC. So far, a total of 580 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been received in Africa and 64% of those have been administered. [Read more](#)



The Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal is expected to produce 25 million doses by the end of 2022, as Africa prepares to ramp up domestic vaccine production. In late 2020, the Institut Pasteur de Dakar developed a \$1 COVID-19 rapid test kit and has been producing yellow fever vaccines for the last 80 years. The move to expand the development of “made in Africa” vaccines will be critical to stemming and responding to future pandemics. [Watch the story here](#)



Morocco has started constructing a new \$562m vaccine facility, which will have the capacity to produce 116 million vaccines in 2024. The plant will be a “fill and finish” site that imports components of vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, and blends them into vials for distribution in Morocco and the rest of the continent. [Read more](#)



South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa has launched a new vaccine manufacturing facility that is expected to boost the country’s capacity to develop its own inoculations against COVID-19 and other diseases. [Read more](#)



Africa CDC is in talks with Pfizer for a COVID-19 treatment pill as part of an approach that includes scaling up vaccines and expanding testing to help deal with the pandemic. [Read more](#)